

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for producing a 3-methylthiopropional in a continuous manner, the method comprising the step of supplying an acrolein and a methyl mercaptan together or sequentially with an acidic compound and a basic compound into a reaction system to react the acrolein with the methyl mercaptan, wherein the basic compound is used in an amount of ~~about~~ 0.3 mol or less per mol of the acidic compound.

2. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the acrolein and the methyl mercaptan are supplied together with the acidic compound and the basic compound into the reaction system.

3. (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein the acidic compound and basic compound are previously mixed with each other before being supplied into the reaction system.

4. (currently amended): The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the basic compound is used in an amount of from 0.05 to ~~about~~ 0.3 mol, per mol of the acidic compound.

5. (currently amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein the basic compound is used in an amount of from 0.1 to ~~about~~ 0.25 mol, per mol of the acidic compound.